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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern:

Please keep in mind with respect to Microsoft's Windows operating systems that we are really not talking about an "operating system" anymore. Windows has become an application bundle. Time and time again Microsoft has incorporated applications into Windows to edge out or crush their competition.

An operating system is designed to operate your computer, i.e. to let the peripherals communicate with the CPU to perform desired tasks. It does not consist of a media player, a web browser, an e-mail client, an instant messaging application, etc. Those services are applications. Currently, what is stopping Microsoft from incorporating Word, Excel, and Powerpoint into Windows and simply calling those applications "new features?"

Any settlement which allows Microsoft to increase their market share or not hinder their ability to bundle applications in to Windows will ultimately hurt many businesses which make fine software that complements Windows. And when business loses, the economy and the consumer lose too.

I am not asking that Microsoft be destroyed, just that they operate on a level playing field.

Erik Anderson